

## [Italian Shoe Machine Worker, Beverly #9]

ORIGINAL MSS. OR FIELD NOTES (Check one)

PUB. Living Lore in

New England

TITLE Italian Shoe Machine Worker - Beverly

WRITER Merton R. Lovett #9

DATE 4/9/39 WDS. PP. 3

CHECKER DATE

SOURCES GIVEN (?) Interview

COMMENTS [4/19/39?] Mass. 1938-9 Paper No. 9

. . .

Interview

with

Roland Dammiani

. . .

by

Merton R. Lovett

## Library of Congress

. . .

“As well as remembered.”

. . .

### Interview with Roland Dammiani

by Merton R. Lovett

. . .

(from memory)

“Yes, Mr. Lovett, I think our Italian Alderman has made a good record. I think he is honest. He is also smart.

“No, I have no political ambition. I am busy enough and have plenty of troubles

“Perhaps I could get the Italian vote. I have been president of the Italian Republican Club. Maybe that would do as much harm as good.

But why talk about it?

“We certainly do need a good playground in Ward Three. Too many of the children play in the streets.

“Of course I knew young Tanzella. He was an honor student at the high school. Did you know he had considerable skill as an artist?

“Perhaps the driver was not to blame. I think he was careless. There is no excuse for running a boy down in the street.

## Library of Congress

"His mother feels terrible. He was a good boy.

"Sure lots of the boys and girls race around Rantoul Street with roller skates. Its dangerous, but they do it. When I was a boy, we didn't

use roller skates. We played in the streets, though.

"Thats what I mean. Its better to spend fifty thousand dollars for a good playground than kill one child.

"The playground by the city stables is too small. When they build the new city garage it will be smaller. Its not big 2 enough for one good ball field. Besides its nothing but an old dump---wet like a swamp in the spring.

"Alderman Scotti is working hard for a new playground. He is opposed to putting the new garage where they plan.

"My wife and I, we worry every time our two children go out to play. We have to watch them all the time. They are too young to realize

the danger.

"There is not much change at the United Shoe. Many of the departments are on a four day week. They say business should improve next month.

"So you have tried often to get a job in the office. Its too bad. Don't you know any of the big shots?

"Vose,- can't he help you. Well I suppose Hoar does have the say.

"No, I don't believe many get a job by pull. There are very few jobs, ever, these days.

## Library of Congress

"Oh, perhaps if President Winslow wanted to get a friend a job, he could do it. Do you know him?

"Thats too bad. Perhaps they do think you are too old. They should not turn down a man like you, just because he is 53.

"Yes, thats right, I have known many such cases. If a workman dies, they try to find a job for his wife or one of his children. It

prevents the family from suffering or breakin up.

"How long have I worked at the United Shoe? Fifteen 3 "Yes, I'll join the Quarter Century Club in ten years, if I live that long.

"Each member gets ten shares of stock in the company.

"I think now it is worth over eighty dollars a share. Sure there are other advantages and privileges, if you belong to the club.

"Thats right, you must work continuously for twenty five years. That was always the rule.

"Yes, many would now be twenty-five year men, if they had not gone out on strike in 1919.

"I don't know. It does seem tough that they should lose their rating for three months absence.

"Do you suppose that the punishment of those men frightens workmen now from forming a union? I can't say. Perhaps the older men. But

why do you want to know Mr. Lovett? Are you writing a book about the United Shoe?

"No? Well there are lots of men who know more than I do.

## Library of Congress

"I don't know much. Why don't you ask some of the bosses?"

"Do I know what Italians could tell you some good stories of Italy - or about the Italian traditions and superstitions? "Why don't you

ask some older Italians? They lived longer in Italy."